

## Service Area Strategic Plan

Department of Social Services (765)

Service Area 12 of 33

**At-risk Child Care Subsidies (765 452 15)****Description**

This service area provides child care assistance to non-TANF families who are working and at risk of becoming dependent on TANF. Child care subsidies are provided through the local departments of social services.

**Background Information****Mission Alignment and Authority**

- *Describe how this service supports the agency mission*

By assisting low income families who are at risk of becoming dependent on TANF with child care assistance, this service area helps them become more self-sufficient, shape strong futures for themselves and contribute towards their communities through work.

- *Describe the Statutory Authority of this Service*

Federal Legal Basis - The Child Care Development Block Grant (Public Law 101-508) Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, amended PL 101-508 to become the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF); legislation which establishes the work requirements associated with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant and establishes the Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant to increase the availability, affordability and quality of child care, serving TANF and other low-income families through child care subsidies.

Federal Regulation – 45 CFR, Parts 98 & 99, which set the regulations for the state Lead Agency to administer the CCDF.

Code of Virginia - §§ 63.2-616 which allows local department to provide services to families who are not receiving TANF and § 63.2-319- Child Welfare and other services.

**Customers**

Agency Customer Group	Customer	Customers served annually	Potential annual customers
Individuals, Children and Families (served unknown; potential unlimited)	Children and Families (potential-unlimited)	51,146	0
General Public (served unknown; potential unlimited)	General Public (served unknown, potential-unlimited)	0	0
Governmental Entities (served unknown; potential unlimited)	Local Departments of Social Services	120	120
Businesses (served unknown; potential unlimited)	Providers (Child Care Providers) (potential-unlimited)	2,235	0

### *Anticipated Changes To Agency Customer Base*

There are no anticipated changes in the customer base.

### **Partners**

Partner	Description
Community Action Agencies	
Local Departments of Social Services	
State Agencies	
Virginia Institute for Social Services Training Activities (VISSTA)	

### **Products and Services**

- *Factors Impacting the Products and/or Services:*

The need for subsidies for child care for low-income families not associated with TANF continues to grow. In July 2007, there were 6,708 families (10,451 children) statewide on local department of social services waiting lists for child care subsidies. These are potentially eligible families who need child care assistance, but for whom there is not enough funding to subsidies.

Recent research has highlighted that the earliest years of a child's life are the most important for healthy development, and becoming ready to succeed in school and later life. Approximately 65% of children aged five and under are in some form of child care, but there are many types of care and varying levels of quality available for families. Likewise, the cost of child care can be more than a year of college tuition, making child care a major expense for low-income families. The Department has to balance investments in mandated child care subsidies for TANF families with the need to also provide assistance to at-risk, low-income families in danger of becoming TANF recipients.

- *Anticipated Changes to the Products and/or Services*

The federal legislation that guides CCDF was included in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, which was re-authorized as part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The legislation includes mandates for increased work activities for more TANF families, which will require more investment in child care subsidies. This lowers the amount of funding available for other eligible low-income families, who, by definition, are already at risk of becoming dependent upon TANF.

Federal requirements for implementation of a Child Care Error Rate mandates the development and implementation of a Child Care Quality Assurance program. Virginia is scheduled to reach full implementation status in FFY09. Automation of the Child Care Subsidy program and the creation of an online training/education tracking system for improving provider competencies in early care and education will ensure the VDSS' ability to meet federal requirements and customer service needs.

- *Listing of Products and/or Services*
  - Child Care Provider Scholarships
  - Child Care Provider Training and Technical Assistance
  - Support of organizations serving communities
  - Services to promote family stability
  - Economic assistance to low income families/individuals or nutrition, child care, health care eligibility, and financial assistance to low income families/individuals
  - Services that promote self-sufficiency
  - New Parent Kit

## Finance

- *Financial Overview*

Funding for the Non-TANF Day Care program comes from general funds and federal funds. The federal funds come from the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) – Discretionary, Mandatory and Matching funds.

- *Financial Breakdown*

	Fiscal Year 2009		Fiscal Year 2010	
	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund
Base Budget	\$14,931,531	\$86,214,153	\$14,931,531	\$86,214,153
Change To Base	\$-43,750	\$-2,431,032	\$-43,750	\$-2,431,032
Service Area Total	\$14,887,781	\$83,783,121	\$14,887,781	\$83,783,121

## Service Area Objectives

- Provide low-income families, who are at-risk of becoming dependent on TANF, with child care subsidies to support economic independence

## Alignment to Agency Goals

- Agency Goal: Maximize the economic independence, safety and stability of individuals and families

### Objective Strategies

- Provide low-income families with financial assistance to find affordable, quality child care for their children
- Increase the quality and supply of child care for all families by providing scholarships to child care providers enrolled in college courses

### Objective Measures

- Provide low-income families, who are at-risk of becoming dependent on TANF, with child care subsidies to support their economic independence

Governor's Key:

No

Measure Type:

Outcome

Measure Frequency:

Annual

Frequency Comment: Number of At-risk children served through child care subsidies

Measure Baseline: 35,158 At-risk children received a child care subsidy in SFY 2005

Measure Target: 35,158 At-risk children will continue to receive a child care subsidy through the end of SFY 2009

Data Source and Calculation: The data will be captured through the Child Care Interim System, in which local departments report client and case specific expenditures each month. An unduplicated count of children by program area can be calculated.

- Number of child care providers receiving professional development scholarships through the Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship program

Governor's Key:

No

Measure Type:

Outcome

Measure Frequency:

Annual

Frequency Comment: Number of child care providers receiving child care training scholarships

Measure Baseline: 2,235 child care providers received Virginia Child Care Provider scholarships in SFY 2006

Measure Target: 2,235 child care providers will receive Virginia Child Care Provider scholarships in SFY 2009

Data Source and Calculation: The data will be captured through the Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship database.